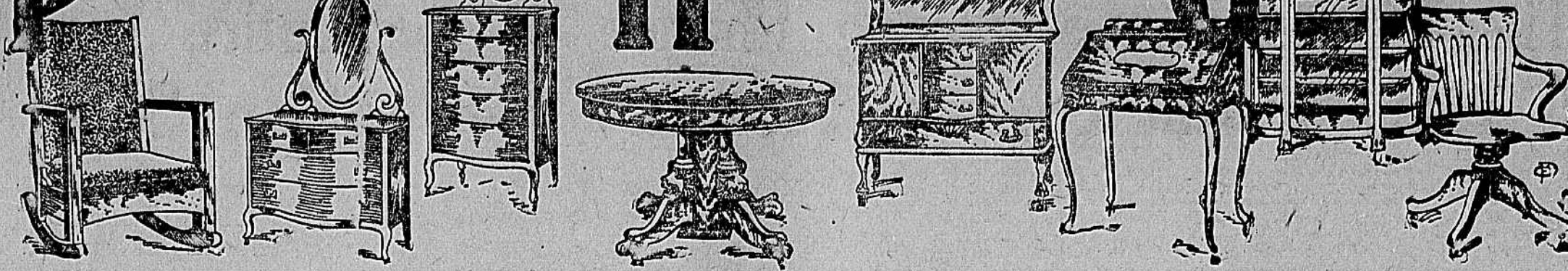


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With a Purchase of \$50 We Will Give Free a Beautiful 26-piece Silver Set of Knives and Forks

PRACTICAL HOLIDAY GIFTS



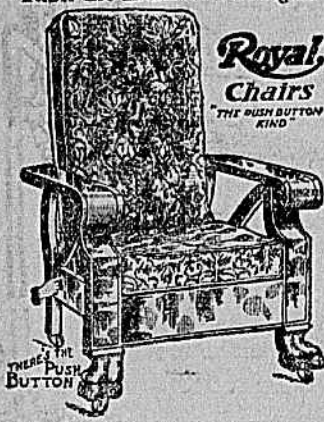
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With a Purchase of \$25 We Will Give Free a Pretty 32-piece Dinner Set Neatly Decorated

That question, "What to buy for Christmas" finds a ready and pleasing answer at Pettit & Co.'s. Buy now and enjoy the pleasure and satisfaction of selecting from complete lines of the handsomest and most dependable Furniture suitable for gift purposes.

CREDIT OF THE MOST LIBERAL SORT.

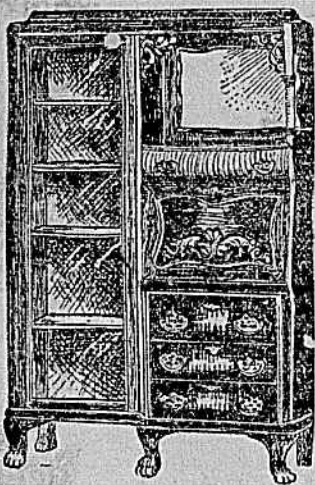
"Push the Button and Rest"



The Gift for Him

When the day's work is done and he has settled down for the evening a man wants a comfortable chair. There is no chair on the market in which one may find such perfect rest and comfort as the "ROYAL" MORRIS CHAIR.

\$10 and up.



Combination Book Cases and Desks

In all styles and woods, from

\$15 to \$45

Let it be a New Method Gas Range

Will Save you 25% in Gas Bills



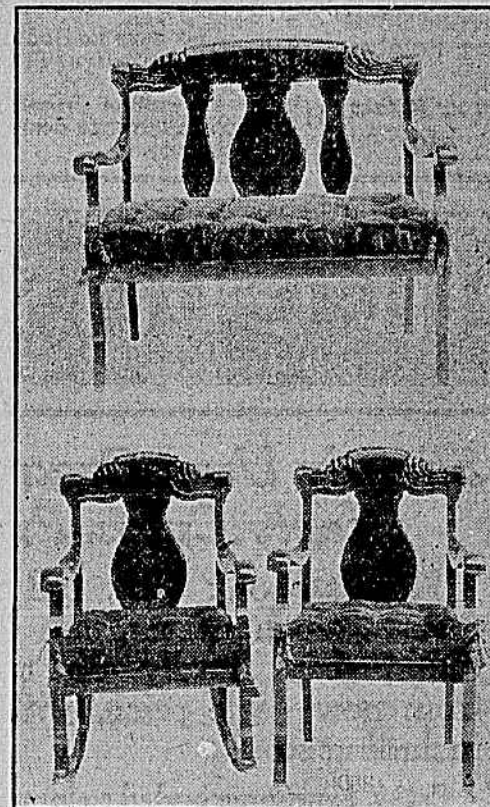
They possess improvements not found on any other Gas Range. If you are looking for a Gas Range you want the best, which is the

New Method

She Wants a Buffet



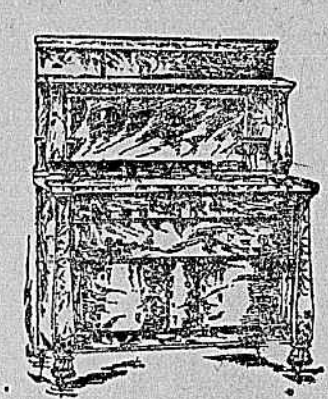
\$18.75 Buys this Neat \$28.00 Buffet, constructed of solid oak, neat in design and of best construction, with large French bevel mirror.



\$18.75 Buys This \$30 Three-Piece Parlor Suit

Heavy birch-mahogany frame, polished, neat carving and loose cushion seats, covered in a high grade plain green plush.

Or Perhaps a Sideboard

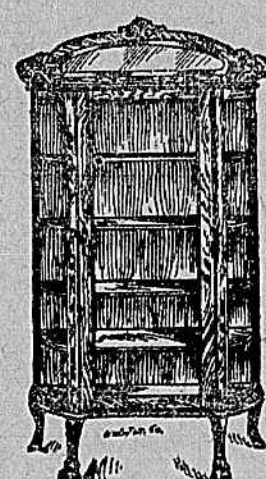


\$38.75 Buys this \$55.00 Sideboard, solid quarter-sawn oak. Sideboard, heavy standards and large size mirror, for only \$38.75.

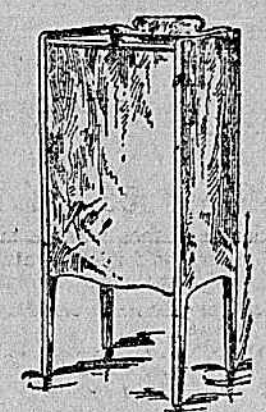


Let it Be a White Sewing Machine

If you have not a White Sewing Machine in your home you should have. A trial is all we ask to prove that the White is the best sewing machine made. You will find it runs easier, runs swifter, sews better and with the neater stitch than any other sewing machine. Sold on easy terms of payment.



\$16.75 Buys this \$25.00 China Closet. A neat and new design china closet, constructed of quarter-sawn oak, polished, large mirror top and bent glass ends.

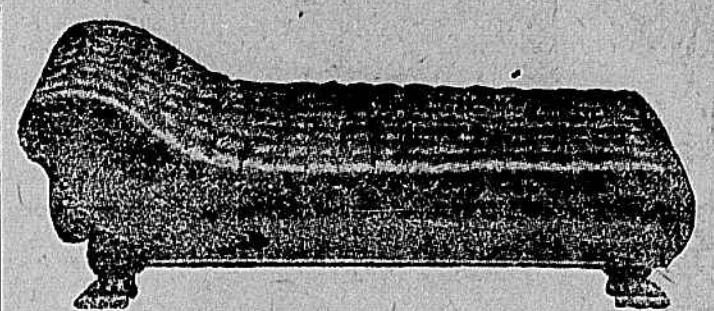


\$8.75 Buys this Pretty Music Cabinet, neat in design and of best construction and finish; worth \$12.00. Others from \$6.75 to \$30.00.



Special 24c FOR MONDAY ONLY.

This very serviceable Enamelled Coffee Pot. One to a customer.



Couches

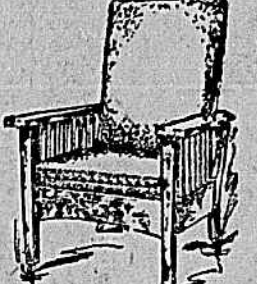
All Styles and Coverings.

\$13.75 Buys this Large Size Couch, covered in fabric and guaranteed; worth \$20.00. Others from \$7.50 to \$75.00.



Ladies' Desks

In all styles and woods. \$3.95 Buys a Very Neat Solid Oak Desk; worth \$7.00. Others up to \$30.00.



\$4.95 Buys this \$8.00 Morris Chair, made of solid oak, nicely finished, and has reversible cushions, covered in Verona.

Your Credit is Good Here Buy Now--- Pay Next Year

The Store that Saves You Money.



\$2.95 Buys this Neat Solid Oak Rocker; worth \$5.00.

Pettit and Company

FOUSHEE and BROAD STS.

EARTH WILL MEET HALLEY'S COMET

Only Effect May Be Some Kind of Electrical Disturbance.

NO PRECISE PREDICTIONS

Expected Collision Will Probably Occur May 18, 1910.

BY GARNETT P. SERVISS.

Halley's comet is now coming on with a rush, getting perceptibly brighter every week, and the latest calculations of its course while in the neighborhood of the earth and the sun give the startling result that it will probably strike the earth on the 18th of May, in the forenoon.

But it will be rather a swish than a blow, since it will be dealt by the tail of the comet at a distance of more than 13,000,000 miles from its head. The comet at that time will be in the act of crossing the face of the sun, on its retreat from perihelion, and the earth will be somewhat in the position of an unlucky fly which has got in the way of the tail of an excited horse whirling round its tying post. Let us say at once that no serious consequences are to be apprehended. It is worse the head of the comet that met the earth it might be a different story; but the tail is composed only of gases and electrified particles, and the chances are that if the anticipated collision occurs (and Father Searle, who has made the calculation, and other astronomers think it extremely likely), we may be totally unaware of what is happening unless certain scientific observations render the result apparent. At a distance of 13,000,000 miles from the comet's head the substance of the tail must be in a very attenuated state, and while the atmosphere may be filled with the gaseous particles, it is probable that there will be no visible evidence of their presence—certainly not on our side of the earth, which will then be in the full daylight, and most likely not even on the other side, where night will prevail. That other side will, of course, be screened from the direct effects of the encounter, but since the tail will extend away to unknown millions of miles beyond the earth, and since the latter will be in the midst of it, the night sky might be expected to show some evidence of the presence of the electrified beam sweeping through the

sky and passing gigantically over the earth. One effect which might easily be expected is some kind of electric disturbance in the atmosphere in the nature of a magnetic storm, like those that attend great displays of the aurora borealis. The particles on the comet's tail are believed to be driven away from the direction of the sun by streams of negatively electrified ions emanating from the solar disturbances. Such ions encounter the earth more or less at all times, producing a negative charge in the upper air, but when they are attended by the gaseous particles of a comet's tail the total effect of their introduction into the earth's atmosphere may be something unexpected. The cometary gases are mostly hydrogen and various kinds of carbon compounds, the precise nature and proportions of which vary with different comets. Professor Pickering is quoted as saying that among the gases probably existing in the tail of Halley's comet acetylene will be included. But, in fact, almost nothing is yet known of the actual composition of this comet, since at the time of its last previous visit, in 1835, the spectroscopic had not yet been invented, and astronomers were ignorant of the nature of the substances composing such bodies. It is probable that it will be only a little hydrogen and various carbonic gases that will be introduced on this occasion into the air, and those in quantities so minute (relatively)

that we who have to breathe them, after they have sunk to our level in the atmosphere, will notice no effects whatever. Still, the whole subject is a matter of conjecture, since such an experience is almost without precedent, and the scientific observations made at the time will possess the highest possible interest. This expected encounter is a realization of a dream that has often occupied the imagination of writers, both literary and scientific. The possible chemical effects of the introduction of cometary gases into the atmosphere had frequently been guessed at, and the tremendous depletion of such effects made by Edgar Allan Poe, in his "Elros and Charmin," has been quoted in scientific books not as possessing any scientific value, but as an indication of the nature of what might happen. Poe pictures a great comet as encountering the earth, somewhat as Halley's is now expected to do, and destroying all life by the introduction into the air of a superabundance of oxygen, which, catching fire, sweeps the earth with a flame of inconceivable heat. The dis-

embodied spirit of Elros tells the story of the earth's last day to Charmin: "That tenacity of the comet, which had previously inspired us with hope, was now the source of the bitterness of despair. In its impalpable gaseous character we clearly perceive the consummation of Fate. We gasped in the rapid modification of the air. 'A furious delirium possessed all men, and, with arms rigidly outstretched toward the threatening heavens, they trembled and shrieked aloud. But the nucleus of the destroyer was now upon us—even here, in Aldenn, I shudder while I speak! For a moment there was a wild lurid light, alone, visiting and penetrating all things. 'Then—let us bow down, Charmin, before the excessive majesty of the great God!—then there came a shrouding and pervading sound, as if from the mouth itself of Him, while the whole incumbent mass of ether in which we existed burst at once into a species of intense flame, for whose surpassing brilliancy and all-ferid heat even the angels in the High Heaven of pure knowledge have no name! Thus ended all!'" It will be observed that Poe finally makes the comet's nucleus touch the earth, a thing that may possibly happen with some future comet, but which cannot happen in the case of the comet of Halley. Besides, after the time when Poe wrote, an actual encounter of the earth with a comet's tail is believed to have occurred. This was in 1881, when a great comet

swung as Halley's is now expected to do between the earth and the sun, swishing its long tail over the globe, and the only consequence noticed was a slight misty light in the air on the night side of the earth. It may be remarked that the portion of the tail of the comet of 1881 that is supposed to have passed over the earth was situated at about the same distance from the comet's head as will be that of Halley's comet. The earth, however, did not pass centrally through the tail, and, as far as that is concerned, it is not likely to pass centrally on the present occasion. The deeper the earth is buried in the tail the denser the latter is likely to

be. It is conceivable that we might pass through a portion dense enough to produce other effects than those imagined by Poe. Among the effects which it has been supposed might be produced by the passing of a comet's tail over the earth is the introduction of particles of the matter serving as the nuclei of dust which, slowly descending to the surface, would produce physiological effects of the nature of influenza. But this presupposes a considerable quantity of such dust. All things considered, it is probable that the only results of the expected encounter that can be detected will be of an electrical character, and here we are too much in the dark to make any precise predictions.

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